UNITED NATIONS

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Division of Narcotic Drugs
P.O. Box 500, 1400-Vienna Austria

information letter

Assembly Adopts Global Programme, Proclaims UN Decade against Drug Abuse

Commission Submits Statement to GA

Special attention was given to the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking at the eleventh special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held from 29 January to 2 February 1990 at Vienna. Some 100 States were represented.

The Commission's views, outlined in a special statement and a chapter of its report, were submitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session on co-operation in matters of international drug abuse control, pursuant to Assembly decision 44/410.

The statement underlined a series of general principles for the development of a global programme of action, including a multisectoral approach to health and social problems associated with drug abuse as well as a commensurate strengthening of the United Nations drug control organs and their secretariats.

To permit consideration of the various views and proposals put forward in the limited time available, the Commission established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Speakers before the Commission included the Colombian Minister of Justice, Gastón Ponce Caballero; the Minister of Home Affairs of Zambia, General G.K. Chinkuli; and Georgine Dufoix, national co-ordinator for drug abuse control activities in France.

In the absence of the outgoing Chairman, the session was opened by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Co-ordinator of all

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A 30-point Political Declaration and a wide-ranging Global Programme of Action were adopted by representatives of some 157 States attending the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly held from 20 to 23 February 1990 in New York.

The Assembly session was devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Joseph N. Garba
General Assembly President

Of the approximately 110 speakers who addressed the Assembly in plenary, 50 were ministers.

Referring to the resources available for drug abuse control, in his opening statement, the President of the General Assembly, Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), said that the international organizations engaged in this field "need and deserve far greater allocations than those prevailing now". He urged Member States to be realistic about the cost when considering what more to ask of the United Nations in drug abuse control.

Resolving to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the Assembly proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 as the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. In this context, it calls for effective and sustained national, regional and international actions to promote the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

The Declaration calls for intensified

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UN System-wide Plan Of Action Circulated

A United Nations System-wide Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control is being circulated to Member States pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989.

The System-wide Plan is aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the UN system.

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At General Assembly special session

INCB President, UNFDAC Executive Director Address Assembly Committee

In his address before the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, the President of the INCB, B. Huyghe-Braeckmans, said that in considering future action to combat drug abuse, an effective effort also required adherence to and full implementation by all States of the international drug control treaties and the carrying out of the supplementary voluntary measures recommended by the Board.

In the context of the treaty system, States working with each other and with the Board had prevented tons of drugs from being diverted from the licit trade to the illicit traffic.

Mr. Huyghe-Braeckmans stated that the Board attached the greatest importance to the reduction of illicit demand and particularly reminded those countries in which consumption was widespread that this element of the global attack was critical if lasting progress is to be achieved.

The very fact that the GA's special session was taking place, he observed, and the content of the documents before it - emphatically bore testimony to the rejection of the view expressed by some individuals advocating the legalization of the abuse of some or all drugs.

In conclusion, he said that "the clear international consensus is that any slackening of the control effort is morally indefensible".

The Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, G. di Gennaro, speaking before the Committee of the Whole, stated that "the necessity of conducting our interventions in a well planned strategic context has been always clear to us. But never before the opportunity to have a global strategy established and agreed by the international community has been offered to us".

In anticipation of this moment, UNFDAC had tried to pave the way towards this goal. This was done by designing and conducting the UNFDAC programme along strategic lines with careful selection of priorities and due consideration to the areas where the problems were of a more complex and grave nature.

UNFDAC Executive Director G. di Gennaro responds to correspondents' questions at the United Nations Headquarters on the final day of the General Assembly special session.

He noted that UNFDAC had been guided in its work by the advice and the directions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had also benefitted from the guidance of representatives of major donors and recipient countries who had become an integral part of UNFDAC decision-making mechanism.

The Executive Director further noted that a maximum of clarity was required in order to reconcile possible divergent views on the roles of multilateral and bilateral assistance. The function of UNFDAC, he said, had to be clearly determined also with reference to the exigency of strengthening the United Nations apparatus through the setting up of a well identifiable and consolidated decision-making and action-oriented structure.

Noting that without the full support of the General Assembly no major advancement was possible, he concluded: "should you address a strong appeal to Governments and parliaments for more generous financial contributions, then the needed break-through could occur".

UNFDAC To Assist Yugoslavia In Curbing Illicit Drug Traffic

Two agreements have been signed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and the Yugoslav Federal Customs Administration under which the Fund will provide some US$ 800,000 in support of the Yugoslav Government's efforts to stop the flow of illicit drugs through the country.

Under an agreement signed in March 1990, UNFDAC will assist the Customs Administration in building and equipping a heavy vehicular inspection facility at the customs post in Bogorodica at the Yugoslav-Greek border.

Also envisaged under the agreement is the provision of specialized inspection equipment for that facility, as well as for another previously constructed with the Fund's assistance at Gradina on the Bulgarian border.

Because of its geographic location, Yugoslavia, like other Balkan countries, has been used increasingly by criminal organizations for the trafficking of heroin, hashish and other illicit drugs from the Near and Middle East to markets in Western Europe and elsewhere.

New Assistant Director

Bogumil F.V.G. Andrasevic has been appointed UNFDAC Assistant Executive Director for Programmes. He holds a Master of Economic and Political Sciences from Stockholm University.

From 1976 to late 1989, Mr. Andrasevic was Chief, Project Review Committee Secretariat and Funds Administration Section with UNIDO in Vienna. Earlier he had served as a Programme Management Officer with UNIDO and with the Economic Commission for Western Asia in Beirut.

Before joining UNIDO, he served with his government as Assistant Swedish Trade Commissioner for the Middle East.

Secretary-General Urges Increased Resources For United Nations Drug Control Programmes

The United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, addressed the General Assembly at the opening of its 17th special session on 20 February 1990. Excerpts follow:

"The United Nations has been given an important mandate to combat the problem of drug abuse in all its manifestations. All countries threatened by the drug scourge can turn to it for advice and material assistance. We are here now to decide on how the international community, particularly the United Nations, can more effectively counter a threat which has been dramatically magnified in recent years.

"In these days of continued budgetary constraints and with a ceiling on the regular budget, it is understandable that Member States look to the Secretary-General to meet new priority requirements by first exhausting all possibilities of absorption. In the case of the regular budget, the additional sums required for drug abuse control, while miniscule in relation to the vast size of the problem, would be too large to be obtained by normal redeployment. Exceptional situations demand exceptional remedies.

"The threat of drug abuse to humanity is so grave, that I feel obliged to urge Member States to find ways and means of providing additional funds to the regular budget for the fight to overcome it.

"Extra-budgetary resources greatly in excess of what is currently available are also needed, particularly for the field operations financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

"Market forces apply to drugs as they do to any other traded commodity. Hence, our endeavours will be frustrated if we fail to bring about a drastic and rapid reduction in demand for drugs.

"Drug abuse is a time-bomb ticking away in the heart of our civilization. We must now find measures to deal with it before it explodes and destroys us."

Delegates from 150 States participating in the 17th special session of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters observe a minute of silence following the adoption, on 23 February 1990, of a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action resolving to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Assembly proclaimed a United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse.

Inter-agency Meeting Reviews UN System-wide Plan

In conjunction with the eleventh special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, representatives of 15 United Nations entities and specialized agencies reviewed a draft Outline of the System-wide Plan of Action for Drug Abuse Control at an inter-agency meeting held on 5 February 1990 at Vienna.

The Ad hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control proposed a number of revisions to the draft Outline.

A progress report on the development of the System-wide Plan of Action was prepared for the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Participants considered preparations for the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat (London, 9 to 11 April 1990) and for the 1990 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June).

Organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the meeting was chaired by Margaret Joan Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna in her capacity as Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control-related activities.

Drug Abuse Prevention Focus of WHO Book

A recent WHO publication edited by M. Gossop and M. Grant, Preventing and Controlling Drug Abuse, reviews experiences from many countries and outlines strategies for reducing demand.

On the basis of several years' work on research, the publication (ISBN 92-4-156134-3) identifies various prevention models providing an overview of current theory and practice.

Emphasizing that prevention must be the core of any successful comprehensive drug abuse programme, the 130-page book concludes that any long-term solution must address the need to reduce demand.

Commission Submits Statement to GA

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United Nations drug control-related activities, Margaret J. Anstee. Statements were also made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board, Benjamin Huyghe-Braeckmans, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, Giuseppe di Gennaro, and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Francisco Ramos-Galino.

The Commission adopted eight resolutions and 11 decisions and recommended four draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

Elected Chairman was Edward Babayan (USSR), who had also served as Chairman of the 27th session of the Commission held in 1977.

Other officers were Robert J. Samsom (Netherlands), Francisco Cuevas-Cancino (Mexico) and Yahya Mahmassani (Lebanon) Vice-Chairmen; Maurice Randrianame (Madagascar) Rapporteur.

Organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the Commission's special session was also attended by representatives of 3 specialized agencies, 9 intergovernmental organizations and 29 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The 40-member Commission serves as the main policy-making body in the United Nations for matters of international drug control.

Catherine Volz (USA), newly appointed Chief of the Treaty Implementation and Commission Secretariat Section, served as Secretary of the Commission.

The report of the Commission is to be issued as document E/1990/24.

1988 Convention

As of 23 March 1990, nine States had ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Bahamas, Bahrain, Chile, China, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Senegal and United States of America. On 27 March 1990, India acceeded to the 1988 Convention.

DND Director Highlights 1988 UN Convention, Essential Need for Additional Resources

In his intervention before the General Assembly Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, recalled that during the 1980s the Division had been promoting international co-operation in combating illicit drug trafficking both at the regional and international levels.

The prevailing political conditions, he noted, made it increasingly possible to strengthen regional and interregional co-operation in combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Such increased co-ordination was more and more necessary to carry into effect the provisons of the 1988 Convention. He observed that its provisional application was one of the most efficient weapons at the disposal of the international community to counteract illicit drug trafficking.

Finding hope in the appeal of the Secretary-General, he expressed confidence that the implementation of the third effort towards a United Nations Global Programme of Action would not be frustrated, as were the two preceeding ones in 1981 and 1987, because of failure to allocate the necessary resources.

Section Chief Appointed

Michael Huins (United Kingdom) has been appointed Chief of the Suppression of Illicit Traffic Section, Division of Narcotic Drugs.

A law enforcement specialist and former staff member of Interpol, he took up his new functions on 2 January 1990.

READEX

General Assembly Special Session on Drug Abuse Control

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efforts in the fields of health, education and public information, including well-targeted campaigns involving the relevant United Nations specialized agencies and NGOs, as an essential measure to reduce illicit demand.

It urges the international community to increase economic and technical co-operation to developing countries and to facilitate trade flows in support of viable alternative income schemes, such as crop substitution programmes.

States are encouraged to ratify or acceed to the United Nations drug control treaties and, to the extent they are able to do so, to apply provisionally the terms of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Emphasis is put on the need to strengthen and enhance United Nations structures for drug abuse control and to provide additional financial and human resources for United Nations activities in this field.

The Global Programme stresses the need for in collective and simultaneous action in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking, noting that States are not in a position to deal with this scourge individually.

Mayor of New York City David Dinkins made a special presentation before the General Assembly Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, which was chaired by Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner of Austria.

At the General Assembly podium, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar consults Margaret J. Anstee, UNOV Director-General and Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control-related activities, during the concluding meeting of the special session.

The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is to be used as a basis for developing balanced strategies aimed at combating all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The Programme outlines the various aspects of such action, including prevention and reduction of demand for illicit drugs; treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts; control of supply; suppression of illicit trafficking; measures against the use and laundering of drug-related money; strengthening of judicial and legal systems.

Urging States to give high priority to activities for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, the Programme emphasizes the role of the United Nations as an advisory centre for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information, and experience in demand reduction.

States are requested to establish and promote national drug abuse assessment and data collection systems. To this end, they should set up data banks on the basis of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System being developed by the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

The Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control-related activities, noting that existing United Nations mandates in drug abuse control were extensive, pointed out to the Committee that to fully implement those mandates and additional ones the Assembly might identify, the Secretary-General had suggested that Governments might consider an exceptional increase to the regular budget as well as greatly increased extrabudgetary flows.

If the international community were to resolve to release savings of a mere 1 per cent of the estimated value of the current total global defence expenditure, a massive $10 billion per annum would become available to help eradicate drug abuse, poverty and every kind of social deprivation, she concluded.

Speakers before the Assembly's Committee included representatives of UNESCO; WHO; IFAD; UNDP; ILO; and the Organization of American States.

The special session of the General Assembly was convened pursuant to resolution 44/16 adopted by the Assembly in response to calls for action made during its 44th regular session by numerous world leaders.

The Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action are found in document A/RES/S-17/2 of 15 March 1990.

Ten fellows from Ghana, Iraq, Lesotho, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen Arab Republic and Zambia completed a three-month laboratory training programme at the Division of Narcotic Drugs on 13 April 1990. The Division's training programme which focuses on the latest techniques of identification of drugs of abuse, aims at strengthening the capacity of national narcotics laboratories to participate in drug control activities in their countries. Pictured from left to right are: Mr. Yousuf Akhtar Siddiqui (Pakistan), Mr. Mumtaz Hussain (Pakistan), Mr. Hamid Mannan Mohamed (Sudan), Mr. Aaron Zulu (Zambia), Ms. Malibe E. Bulane (Lesotho), Ms. Elizabeth Hannah Adetola (Ghana), Mr. Mohammad Zeb Khan (Pakistan), Mr. Mohammed Mehdi Hashim (Iraq), Mr. Adil Jaffar Hassan (Iraq) and Mr. Ahmed Ali Antar (Yemen Arab Republic).

Madrid Hosts Symposium

The Executive Director of UNFDAC, G. di Gennaro, and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, F. Ramos-Galino, participated in a Symposium on Drug Trafficking and International Politics held in Madrid from 28 to 30 March 1990.

The meeting was organized by the Spanish Centre for Foreign Policy Studies established by a private foundation to provide a forum to debate international politics.

Chairperson Presents NGO Committee Views

In a statement before the General Assembly Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, the Chairperson of the New York NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse, Amelia Dozzi, called for intensified partnership and co-operation of Governments with NGOs in combating drug abuse.

Lions Day Observance Devoted To Drug Abuse Control

A Lions Club "Medal of Merit" was awarded to Margaret J. Anstee, UNOV Director-General, on the occasion of the Lions Day with the United Nations on 12 March 1990.

In accepting the award which is the highest decoration for non-Lions members, Miss Anstee said that civic groups such as the Lions Club had an "indispensable role" to play since United Nations declarations and programmes could never be successfully translated into action without grass-roots activities.

Delivering a keynote speech on that occasion, Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, said that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking cannot be won by Governments alone, but must involve all forces of society.

He noted that, since the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, progress has been made to strengthen co-operation. Producing and consuming countries now recognized that they shared a common responsibility and were equally affected by the problem.

One major problem, he said, was that the political commitment of Governments to fight drug abuse was not always matched by adequate financial resources. In that connection, Lions Clubs could act as pressure groups in their respective countries. NGOs could also be instrumental in building "a wall against drug addiction" by developing motivation for young people and setting clear objectives for their lives.

The Lions Day with the United Nations in Vienna was organized by the Lions Club Vienna Cosmopolitan, a regional chapter of Lions Club International which consists of 1.5 million members worldwide grouped into 40,000 clubs in 160 countries.

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the Division's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing co-ordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1990

United Nations System

9-11 April	UK/United Nations: World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat.	London
1-25 May	Economic and Social Council, first regular session.	New York
2-4 May	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, first regular session.	Vienna
7-11 May	International Narcotics Control Board: Training Seminar for National Drug Administrators in Asia and the Pacific.	Beijing
7-18 May	World Health Organization: 43rd World Health Assembly.	Geneva
7 May-8 June	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, 30th session.	New York
14-25 May	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to study economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, first session.	Vienna
21 May - 1 June	International Narcotics Control Board, 47th session.	Vienna
4-8 June	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa.	Cairo
6-27 June	International Labour Organisation: International Labour Conference, 77th session.	Geneva
18-22 June	International Narcotics Control Board: Seminar on Article 12 of the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.	Brussels
26 June	**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.**	
9-20 July	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to study economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, second session.	Vienna
27 August - 7 September	CSDHA: Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.	Havana
12-14 September	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Geneva

18 September -	General Assembly, 45th session.	New York
24-28 September	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean.	Aruba
24 September - 2 October	WHO: 27th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.	Geneva
8-25 October	International Narcotics Control Board, 48th session.	Vienna
15-19 October	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific.	Beijing
19-23 November	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe.	Vienna
1 December	**World AIDS Day.**	

Intergovernmental Organizations

17-20 April	Organization of American States (OAS): Inter-American Meeting of Ministers on the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein - Alliance of the Americas against Drug Traffic.	Ixtapa, Mexico
14-15 May	ICPO-Interpol: Meeting of Working Group on co-operation between banks and the police.	Lyon, France
28 May-1 June	OAS: Inter-American Meeting on Education for Prevention.	Quito
19-20 June	ICPO-Interpol: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Services in the Caribbean and Central American Region.	Oranjestad, Aruba

Non-governmental Organizations

10 April	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
23-28 April	National Parents' Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE): World Prevention Exchange and 13th Annual PRIDE World Drug Conference.	Orlando, U.S.A.
30 April	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
10-15 June	International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA): 18th International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence.	Berlin, F.R.G.

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22-25 May	Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: International Conference of Campaign against Narcotic and Abuse.	Teheran